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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER

03102004

DATE MAILED:

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

Commissioner for Patents

The third supplemental Amendment filed on 2/9/2004 was not entered because entry of the reply would have unduly interfered with the preparation of the Office Action mailed on the same date. See 37 CFR 1.111(a)(2). The examiner spent a significant amount of time on the preparation of an Office action before the reply was received. On the date of receipt of the reply, the examiner had closed the prosecution and mailed out the Notice of Allowance.

Furthermore, entry of the reply would have required significant additional time in the preparation of the Office action. Specifically, entry of the reply would have required the examiner to restrict the newly submitted claims, which are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.

A responsive reply (under 37 CFR 1.111 or 37 CFR 1.113 as appropriate) to this Office action must be timely filed to avoid abandonment.

If this is not a final Office action, applicant may wish to resubmit the reply along with a responsive reply under 37 CFR 1.111 to ensure proper entry of the reply.

*[Signature]*  
3/10/04

*[Signature]*

DREW A. DUNN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER